

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA CITY COUNCIL

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1ST DISTRICT COUNCILMAN

Tom Wheeler Chairman Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

Re: MB Docket No. 14-57

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

COMMITTEES Chair Streets and Services

Member
Finance
Public Property and Public Works
Licenses and Inspections
Labor and Civil Service
Commerce and Economic Development
Transportation and Public Utilities
Public Safety
Education
Legislative Oversight
Housing, Neighborhood Development
and the Homeless
Technology and Information Services

As a Philadelphia City Councilman since 2012 and lifelong resident of South Philadelphia, I have been fully committed to making a positive difference in my city in any and every way possible. I have made the success of Philadelphia communities my priority, and I believe that Comcast shares these values. I write today to urge the FCC to move in favor of Comcast's transaction with Time Warner Cable.

I currently represent Philadelphia's First District, a diverse and growing area along the Delaware River, from South Philly across Center City, Chinatown, Northern Liberties, Fishtown, Kensington and Port Richmond. One of the projects I have personally undertaken is the ongoing improvement of the East Passyunk Business District, which is becoming one of the East Coast's most prominent emerging destinations for culture, dining, and nightlife. Like any up-and-coming urban neighborhood, its success depends on the availability of reliable services from companies such as Comcast. Comcast's broadband internet, Wi-Fi hotspots, and advanced cable technologies are the types of services that this neighborhood and many other parts of our great city need to thrive.

Like many other urban cores, Philadelphia has families and schools struggling to find the resources needed to provide a quality education. Comcast has made the effort to fill that need. Its Internet Essentials program allows low-income families the opportunity to afford internet services for their home, so that children are able to continue learning outside of the classroom. It's a critical program addressing a critical need. I am proud that Comcast, a hometown company in Philadelphia, is responsible for such groundbreaking and important efforts to bridge the digital divide here and elsewhere.

I could go on and on about Comcast and its contributions to Philadelphia. It is a job creator – it operates the Wells Fargo Center and Xfinity Live neither of which is in my council district but does employ many of my constituents. It is a do-gooder – I love to attend and participate in Comcast Cares Day. And it is an industry leader that is putting Philadelphia on the map as an East Coast hub for technology.

I fully support the transaction between Comcast and Time Warner Cable. We benefit each other and I only see better things on the horizon for our community and many others if Comcast can grow through this transaction.

Sincerely,

Mark F. Sovilla

Councilman- First District

MFS/skm